

ST. BRENDAN PASTORAL COUNCIL – MINUTES OF MEETING FEBRUARY 19, 2026

PRESENT: Fr. Mark Betti, Jean Brieze, Fr. Dass, Stephen Candela, Kenneth Conn, Madeline Dubas, Ada Flores, Ginny Grant, Gerald Greco, Bob Houser, Laura Kniaz, Celeste Korpon, Bert McGoff, Charles McShane, Thomas Ocasio, Carol Rowane, Vincent Russo, Paul Schaefer. **EXCUSED ABSENT:** Sandra Nelson, Michael Schmid.

1. Ginny Grant welcomed the members. Fr. Mark opened the meeting with a prayer at 9:35 AM.
2. Minutes of the meeting held on January 8, 2026, were approved as written.
3. **FINANCE:** We presently have just under \$400,000 in our general checking account plus \$252,000 in our savings/reserve account. Due to the snowfall, the expected loss in offertory collection monies did not materialize due to the dedicated generosity of our parishioners. We continue to make double payments on our land debt, along with additional contributions to our building fund. We are financially sound.

4. **PASTOR'S REPORT:**

- John LeFebvre has very reluctantly resigned from the Council for personal reasons. He stated that he really enjoyed serving on PAC. The next candidate in line from the 2025 election will be asked to serve.
- Pope Leo has declared 2026 as the Jubilee Year of St. Francis of Assisi as we observe the 800th anniversary of his death. Anyone making a pilgrimage to a Franciscan site between 10 January 2026 and 10 January 2027 may gain a plenary indulgence. The Diocese of Raleigh of Raleigh has five such pilgrimage destination sites. Due to their considerable distances from St. Brendan, Fr. Mark has proposed that our Prayer Garden be named the St. Francis Prayer Garden. Fr. is requesting that Bishop Zarama bless it while here for Confirmation weekend, March 20 and 21.

Parish Vision Statement 2026 was discussed. PVS26 should contain short-term, medium and long range goals.

- I. Pay off Loan – as soon as possible to save on interest.
 - II. New Building – Long Range Goal.
 - III. S.O.A.R. – “Shallotte Outreach Assistance Resource” would replicate the one in New Bern as one central clearing house for outreach. Would be all encompassing combining resources of all outreach and assistance sites into one building. Prevent needy from going to multiple sites.
 - IV. “65/30” is a major fundraiser which would celebrate Fr. Mark’s 65th birthday and 30th anniversary to priesthood. Proceeds would be divided: 65% to the St. Brendan Building Fund, 30% to Catholic Charities, the remaining 5% to defray expenses. Scheduled for Sunday 16 January 2028, which would include a 4:00 pm Mass followed by sit-down catered dinner in the Parish Hall. Funds would be raised by ticket sales, advertizing and table sponsors. Pastoral Council would coordinate with Catholic Charities. Jean Brieze has volunteered to be coordinator. No gifts to Fr. Mark personally. Enlist assistance from various Ministries. More details to follow.
 - V. Perpetual Adoration. The plan would be to expand Chapel hours. Perhaps start with 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.
pm Monday-Friday. Long Range plan would be to offer 24/7.
Adoration which is now possible with the Electronic Surveillance and Locking system.
 - VI. Parish Retreats/Days of Recollection. Was noted at January Assembly of Priests that an order of cloistered nuns would be moving to the Diocese of Raleigh by end of 2027.
 - VII. Hire Director of Faith Formation . Hire a Director to coordinate all areas of Faith Formation.
 - VIII. More resources for Younger Families. Develop programs to bring them into a closer relationship with God and the parish. Groups for young adults and youth.
- Members asked to bring other suggestions to March meeting to further expand the PVS26.

5. **OLD BUSINESS:**

- **AI Enabled Electronic Surveillance and Lock** system is almost complete. Training is underway.
75% operational. Ministry reps. to schedule access for people in charge of events. System goes live on March 15. Keys will be inoperable. Access to be limited to only those areas being used.
- **Gathering Space.** Installation of security film to be completed February 20. Requires one week to cure; then final inspection.
- **Ballistic glass installation for the Sanctuary:** Final bid of \$55,000 has been approved by the Finance Council. After discussion, Council approved the motion to recommend installation to Fr. Mark for approval.
- **Update on 2025 Parish Community Annual Summary.** Summary complete. Addendum added to more accurately reflect activities of the Hispanic community. Summary for 2026 will be reorganized to better showcase areas included since original publication in 2023.
- **Update on Parish Census Online APP.** Still pending.
- **Legion of Mary Cancer Rosary.** First meeting was held on January 27 and was well presented and received by approximately 59 parishioners in attendance. Date of next rosary to be determined.
- **Review of Ash Wednesday Mass Schedule.** All Masses (8:00 and 10:00 am, 4:00, 6:00 pm and 8:00 PM Spanish) were well attended with no overflow into the Parish Hall.

6. NEW BUSINESS:

- **2026 Pastoral Vision Plan.** See Pastor's Report.
- **Roundtable:**
 - ✓ Stephen Candela (MD) commented that in the event of medical emergency, we were lacking in necessary equipment. He will forward a list of necessary items to SMM.
 - ✓ New Baptismal Font has been moved from the Sanctuary to the church entrance for Lent.
 - ✓ It was noted that the Legion of Mary has added two new groups: Reina de Los Angeles for Hispanic youth, and a junior presidium which is Queen of Martyrs.

7: COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **BUILDING AND GROUNDS:** See attached report. Parish Campus will be closed 4/6 to 4/10 for semi-annual cleaning and repairs.
New sound board will be installed in Church on April 6.
- **ST. MICHAEL MINISTRY:** See attached report
- **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS:** Fish Fry on February 20. St. Patrick's Dinner on Tuesday 17 March.
Six new members to be installed.
- **COLUMBIETTES:** See attached report.
- **FAMILY-CENTERED FAITH FORMATION:** See attached report.
- **LITURGY:** See attached report.
- **HISPANIC:** JOHN XXIII will hold a Women's Retreat on March 13 – 15.

8. THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2026.

9. FR. MARK ADJOURNED THE MEETING WITH A PRAYER AT 10:40 AM.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Facilities Management Report – February 2026

- **HVAC:** Being we have the new service agreement in place we had a number of repairs made to at least 3 of our units at no cost to us, as well as a replacement of some damaged duct work that would have cost north of \$ 4,500 and we only had to pay \$1,100.00. That was for materials only.

- Janitorial: Met with Jan-Pro to request some costs for the cleaning of the Carpets in the Sanctuary and Gathering space, also cost to buff & polish the Parish Hall and classrooms.
- Plumbing: Minor repairs in Men's room Gathering Space, Ladies Room Parish Hall & Men's room MJMPC. completed
- General: Work continues repairing kneelers and pews that are damaged and misc. repairs around the campus as they arise.

Parish Inventory:

- Roads & Grounds: Received proposals from 2 contractors to mow the newly acquired Land. Met on site, awaiting revised more detailed quotes
- Roof: Highland Roofing has completed some minor repairs on the roof of the Main Church Building and Gathering space.
- Misc.: Have fully integrated the use of a preventive maintenance plan/schedule for routine maintenance activities.
- Fire Alarm / Sprinkler System: We had the FDC(Fire Dept Connection) underground line (that previously failed the Wet test) tested by a 3rd Party and unfortunately the results were the same. We are waiting for an estimate to replace the li

Facilities Look Ahead

- Continuing with Preventative Maintenance of all mechanical systems.
- Install window coverings in Conference Room # 2 in MJMPC
- Weekly set up in Parsh Hall for Faith Formation
- Starting to gather tasks that are to be performed during the April Shut Down

Saint Michaels' Ministry (SMM) Monthly Report - January 2026

- Medical / Security Incidents

Three (2) security incidents and (1) Medical incident were reported in January as follows:

Date: January 4, 2026, Mass/Event Time: 1:18 p.m.

Incident: Security

Description of Event: At 1:18 p.m. on this date, Jeanne Miller, Saint Michael Minister (SMM) and assigned of duty call out for alarms, received a call from Central Station Monitoring that the alarm for the church/sanctuary had been activated. I declined a law enforcement call out and gave her the password for deactivating the alarm.

I texted SMMs Rick Skorny and Tom Ocasio, advising them of the alarm, and that I was responding. They began to monitor the security system. I conducted a "drive-thru" of the campus upon my arrival. The only vehicle observed was Sister Roseanne's white SUV, parked at the back door of the McGivney Pastoral Center.

I entered the Gathering Space and found all the doors (electronic and keyed) unsecured. I texted Mistrs Skorny and Ocasio and advised them of the situation. I locked the Gathering Space and conducted a search to make sure the area was clear. The three sets of double wooden doors leading in the church from the Gathering Space were all standing open. I closed them, then entered the church and completed a circuit, searching and securing the area. The bell tower doors and the side parking lot doors were securely locked as well as the two exit doors on either side of the altar.

I entered the Parish Hall and conducted a complete circuit, searching and clearing the area. I found the ducks that were the subject of previous reporting at the back parking lot door to the Parish Hall. I texted a picture to Misters Skorny and Ocasio at 1:52 p.m. There is a possibility that the ducks activated the alarm if they approached the electric doors, which, as stated earlier, were unsecured.

At 1:58 p.m., I texted Misters Skorny and Ocasio with a picture of the double doors facing the front parking lot. The right-hand door was locked but had not been pulled fully closed and was unsecure. This is the second time in the last six to eight weeks of checking the building on Sundays that I have found this door not fully closed.

I re-entered the Gathering Space, set the alarm, and left the building.

I did not observe any damage, graffiti, or any other issue that would raise concern for criminal activity. At 2:05 p.m. I departed campus.

Date: January 5, 2026, Mass /Event Time: 8:30 am

Incident: Medical

Description of Event: At 8:30 am on this date, Jerry Greco, Facilities Manager, was advised by Carlos Gandia that a parishioner had fallen outside of the church. Jerry immediately went to the Sanctuary and found Mr. Don Conway sitting in a wheelchair with injuries to his nose, forehead and eyebrow. Don advised that he was on blood thinners and was actively bleeding at that time.

Jerry, along with other parishioners as well as Fr. Mark tried to persuade him to seek medical attention. Parishioners, Mr. & Mrs. Phil Marll had helped Don Conway into the church, got him some paper towels and ice to put on his head and seated him in a wheelchair.

Don refused medical attention at that time, however after much persuasion Don agreed to allow us to call 911. Brunswick County EMS truck # 11 along with Shallotte Police responded at 8:52 am. EMS checked Don and he again refused to go to hospital. The EMS team had Don sign a waiver to that effect.

At 9:15 am one of Don's neighbors, Don Briese, who was in church agreed to drive him home and stay with him until his girlfriend arrived at his house.

In reviewing the church's camera footage, it appeared that Don had fallen over a tire stop in the handicap parking stall at approximately 8:05 am.

Date: January 6, 2026, Mass /Event Time: approx. 3:15pm

Incident: Security

Description of Event: On 1/6/2026 at approximately 3:15 pm Tom Ocasio, SMM received a call from Rusty and Lisa from the St Brendan's Office. They reported that a visitor was in the Adoration Chaple and would not leave until someone was there to secure the host. According to Rusty, the individual became loud and appeared upset that he was asked to leave. This response made them both nervous. They attempted to contact Father Mark, who at that time was not able to respond to their call. Lisa informed me that they were leaving for the day and locking the building. I told Lisa I would respond and continue to try and contact Father Mark.

I was able to reach Father Mark on my way to the church and informed him of the situation. I told him I would remain at the Adoration Chapele until he arrived. Once Father Mark secured the host the individual left the chapel without further incident.

I left the church at approximately 4:20 at which time the individual had already exited church property.

Integrated Security System

Installation of the new Security System has continued. Necessary updates in the software operating system to enhance the overall system capabilities are being installed. Current raster of user's information is being reviewed for accuracy and then entered in the Locking System database.

User Training is scheduled for the following dates and times:

Functional Coordinators:

Feb. 9, 2026, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Feb.10, 2026, 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Feb. 11, 2026, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

- Ministry Training:

Feb. 16, 2026, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Feb. 17, 2026, 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Feb. 18, 2026, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

New Business:

Installation of Security Film in the gathering space has been approved. Materials have been ordered. Installation has been scheduled to begin on Feb. 6, 2026 (church scheduling may affect start date).

Additional pricing for installation of bullet-proof glass over the chapel's stained-glass windows has been approved by Parish Finance Council. If approved by Parish Advisory Council, the documents package will be sent to the Diocese for approval to proceed.

Knights of Columbus

- February 2, the Knights attended the funeral mass for deceased member, Joe Magri, with a 4th degree honor guard.
- February 6 the Knights will pray the rosary for life prior to daily Mass.
- Monthly Council meeting will be February 9 at 10:00 am
- February 20, the Knights will hold a Fish Fry dinner from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Eat in or Take Out. \$12.00/meal or Family pack 4 for ?

The Knights have completed the new Military Honor Wall in the Gathering Space with new showcase and are requesting photos of active service personnel to display. Must be 3 x 5 uniformed picture with name, rank, branch of service and contact info. Information for placement of photo is in display case.

Columbiettes January 2026 Report

- 1) Soup Sales were very successful
- 2) We initiated 3 new members on February 12th
- 3) Members voted to start a Sharing and Caring Committee to reach out to sister Columbiettes who are not able to attend meetings and may need a ride, need support after surgery or illness etc.
- 4) We will be helping the Knights with the St Patrick's Day Party on March 17th.
- 5) Some of our ladies are interested in helping with the Special Olympics on March 24th.
- 6) We are beginning to prepare for the Scholarship Tea in April.

Liturgy Committee Mtg. Minutes – 1-22-26

1. Opening Prayer – Father Mark
2. Comments/Concerns – Father Mark
 - ü Because of the pending poor weather, Father recommends everyone use caution if they plan on driving to church. Safety first. If it is not safe to drive to church, don't drive to church.
 - ü Communal Penance Service is Tuesday, February 17th at 11 am (Fat Tuesday- the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday). An accompanist and a cantor are needed. Loud background music should be played during the confessions.
 - ü Ash Wednesday – Ashes will be distributed during all masses. We will also have Ashes distributed during services as well. Mass is scheduled for 8:00am, 10am, 4pm, 6pm and 8pm (Spanish). Instrumental music should be played during the distribution of Ashes. Ashes will be distributed at the end of mass.
 - ü Holy week: Holy Thursday - 4pm Tenebrae, 5pm Mass; Good Friday -12 noon; Holy Saturday – 4pm Vigil Mass; Easter Vigil Mass – 8pm; Easter Sunday - 7am, 8:30, 10, 11:30, and 1:30 (Spanish). The choir will perform at 8:30am.
 - ü Confirmation will be on March 21st at 11am - music is needed.
 - ü We will sing the Gloria at all Masses beginning with the Easter Vigil.
3. Review of Advent and Christmas
 - ü The Christmas schedule for 2026 will be the same as the 2025 schedule.
 - ü There were only 75 people seated in the overflow area at the 4pm Mass. Having the choir perform at the 6pm Mass helped tremendously. The overflow area was not needed at any of the other Masses. The scheduling of the Masses worked well and will be utilized again.
 - ü The Advent concert worked well.
4. Committee Reports
 - Ø Music/Cantors – Sandy Payne
 - ü Christmas went well.
 - Ø Choir – Sandy Gemach
 - ü The Advent Concert and Christmas Eve Mass worked very well. A lot of parishioners stayed instead of leaving after Holy Communion.
 - ü We are having the dates when the choir sings placed in the bulletin so people can plan accordingly.
 - ü The Tenebrae Concert will be at 4pm on Holy Thursday. It is called “The Solemn Shadows” (...was inspired by the medieval tradition of observing Tenebrae, a service on Maundy Thursday or Good Friday. This is a sacred time for Christians to reflect on the events of Jesus' passion.)
 - v Holy Thursday –
 - At the close of Mass, we process out of the church singing the “Pange Lingua” (weather permitting).
 - “So you must Do” – will be sung during the foot washing.
 - “In Remembrance of Me” is the prelude for the Holy Thursday Mass.
 - ü Stations of the Cross – at the conclusion of Mass on Fridays. No funerals should be scheduled on Friday. (One has been scheduled).
 - ü Sequence – Can be sung by the Cantor at the Vigil Mass.
 - ü Incense? Holy Thursday, 4pm Easter Vigil, 8pm Vigil yes; Easter Sunday -No; All Masses during the Easter Season – yes.
- Ø Enhancement Committee – Sandy Nelson
 - ü We discussed the purging of unused Christmas enhancements and storing all of the Christmas items in the attic storage closet.
 - ü We discussed two possible dates for setting up for Lent.

5. Date for next meeting -- April 23rd - 9:30am Library
6. Closing Prayer – Father M

FAMILY- CENTERED FAITH FORMATION

- We had to cancel our February 1, 2026 session of Children’s Faith Formation due to the weather. This is the first time in Family-Centered Faith Formation history that we had a “snow day”!!!! So much was prepared and planned for this session, but we will look forward to March 1, our next session.
 - There will be two classes in March (March 1 and March 29th-Palm Sunday) and no classes in April because Easter is on the first Sunday in April.
 - We will have a Food Drive for the Faith Formation families at St. Brendan’s on March 29th. The children will receive information about this at the March 1 session. The donations will be given to the Food Pantry. We do this every year during Lent teaching the children to give to those in need.
- Important dates in our parish:
- March 21-Confirmation Mass with Bishop Luis
 - April 18-First Communion Day
 - May Lent be holy and meaningful to all.

Blessings, Diane and Tom Nagle
